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ABSTRACT

In January-February 1980, all students who were enrolled in an occupational program at an Illinois community college during 1979 and who completed all of the required skills courses but did not graduate with a degree or certificate were surveyed to determine how well the colleges were meeting the needs of these students. Survey questionnaires solicited information on: (1) satisfaction with community college services; (2) impact of college attendance on students; (3) degree of success in achieving goals; (4) plans for further education; (5) employment status, location, responsibilities, and salary; (6) job satisfaction and relation of job to college program; and (7) college help in job placement. Of the 893 students surveyed, 412 (46.1%) responded. The study revealed that library services, veteran's services, instruction, and financial aid were rated favorably, while job placement and career counseling received the lowest ratings. Most respondents felt that a community college education was helpful in developing critical thinking, communication skills, and life goals and values. Over 62% of the respondents were employed full-time, and another 15.7% were employed part-time. Of the employed respondents, 57% were working in a field related to their major and 74% were satisfied with their work. Full-time employees earned a median salary of $1,113 per month. The study report summarizes follow-up data by program area and includes the questionnaire. (Author/KL)

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Illinois Community College Board

FOLLOW-UP STUDY
FY 1979 OCCUPATIONAL NON-GRADUATE COMPLETERS

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FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF FY 1979 OCCUPATIONAL NON-GRADUATE COMPLETERS

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Preface

This statewide follow-up study of FY 1979 occupational program non-graduate completers from Illinois public community colleges was initiated by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and its Research Advisory Council (RAC) in an attempt to assist community colleges in obtaining and reporting objective feedback information from students who have completed occupational programs and are now employed. This study was the second-year phase of the second comprehensive ICCB statewide occupational study undertaken by the public community colleges of Illinois.

The first ICCB statewide study of occupational students was a longitudinal study which followed a group of Fall Term 1974 first-time occupational students enrolled at community colleges for a period of four years. The first-year phase of the second study was a follow-up study of FY 1978 occupational program graduates conducted during FY 1979. That study was completed and a report was published in September 1979 by the ICCB.

Many students attend community colleges to gain the necessary skills to become employable in a field of their choice. This objective requires a degree or a certificate in some areas, such as nursing. However, in many other areas, such as automotive repair and secretarial occupations, this objective can be obtained by posessing the required skills without a degree. This study attempted to follow-up those occupational students who completed all the required skills (occupational) courses in the program but left the college without graduating.

The most useful purpose of follow-up information is to re-evaluate the colleges' programs and services so that these programs and services will continue to improve each year. Follow-up is also necessary to satisfy the state and federal requests for accountability of occupational programs. This study was carefully designed to insure that all follow-up information required by the state and federal agencies was obtained.

The ICCB staff analyzed the results of the follow-up survey by using special statistical programs on its computer system. Each college's results were analyzed separately and sent to the college for local use. This report contains only the statewide analysis and is intended for use by the reader interested in overall state results. It is also useful for comparison of local college results with statewide averages.

Since most of the burden for implementing the follow-up study was at the local college level, we want to express our appreciation to the hundreds of persons at the community colleges who spent thousands of hours surveying the students and preparing the reports for the ICCB. We also want to thank the community college administrators and trustees for their support of this follow-up study effort.

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Highlights of the ICCB Follow-Up Study of FY 1979 Occupational Program Non-Graduate Completers

1. This follow-up study surveyed all the FY 1979 occupational program non-graduate completers of Illinois community colleges using a common survey instrument which was designed to satisfy the reporting requirements of state and federal agencies as well as to provide needed feedback information from students for use by local community colleges in attempting to evaluate and improve their programs and services. A total of 893 occupational program non-graduate completers were surveyed by the colleges. Responses from 412 completers (46.1%) were obtained and used in this analysis of the results.

2. A high proportion of the occupational non-graduate completers were employed full-time (62.5%), while an additional 15.7% were employed on a part-time basis. A majority of the non-graduate completers employed full-time (56.8%) were employed in a job which was related to their program of study at the community college. Of the non-graduate completers, 11.5% reported that they were unemployed and seeking a job, while 10.2% reported that they were unavailable for employment for various reasons.

3. An evaluation of community college services and instruction by the FY 1979 non-graduate completers of community college occupational programs revealed that the former students rated library services, veteran's services, instruction, and financial aid as being very good in the community colleges. Job placement and career counseling received the highest percentage of "poor" or "very poor" evaluations (33.9% and 19.2% respectively).

4. The occupational non-graduate completers indicated that a community college education provided many personal, social, and cultural benefits to them as individuals. A large majority of the graduates indicated that their community college education was helpful to them in the following areas:

   a. Development of ability to think critically (92.0%)
   b. Development of more effective communication skills (90.9%)
   c. Identification and development of life goals and values (85.0%)

5. Over 74% of the employed occupational non-graduate completers indicated that they were either very satisfied or satisfied with their current job or positions while only 12.1% indicated that they were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

6. The follow-up study results showed that 63.1% of the non-graduate completers took jobs within the same community college district that they attended, 33.7% of the completers located jobs in Illinois but outside of their community college district, and 3.2% of the completers located jobs outside of Illinois. These results point out that an investment in public community colleges of Illinois results not only in providing educational opportunities for all citizens, but also in the production of many qualified skilled individuals who become employees and tax-paying citizens primarily in their local communities and almost entirely within the State of Illinois.

7. The FY 1979 non-graduate completers of occupational programs in the community colleges rated the job placement assistance of program coordinators and college faculty as being more helpful to them than the college placement office. The results showed that 24.3% of the completers who responded to this item indicated that the college placement office was of help to them in obtaining employment, while 54.9% of the completers indicated the college program coordinators and faculty helped them in obtaining employment. The results also show that community college students get very little job placement assistance from state or private employment agencies and rely primarily on friends or relatives and other sources for obtaining a job.

8. The results of this follow-up study of FY 1979 non-graduate completers of occupation programs of public community colleges in Illinois show that a sizable number of students complete occupational programs without graduating. Most of these students are very satisfied with their education at the community colleges and were successful in achieving their objectives for enrolling in the occupational programs.

Introduction

This statewide follow-up study surveyed FY 1979 non-graduate skill completers of occupational programs in Illinois public community colleges. Since many students in community colleges complete only the occupational (skill) courses in a curriculum then leave college and seek employment, this study attempted to find out how well the community colleges were meeting the educational needs of these particular students.

Initial participation in this study consisted of all thirty-nine public community college districts in Illinois, which includes 51 community colleges; however, twenty-one of these colleges did not have any FY 1979 occupational non-graduate completers to fit the definition of this study or could not identify these students. Hence, 30 of the 51 colleges were included in the entire follow-up study.

The Purposes of the Study

One of the main purposes of this follow-up study was to obtain the students' evaluation of the occupational programs in the community colleges of Illinois. This input from students who have gone through the programs and are now employed is valuable in helping the colleges identify both the strengths and weaknesses of existing programs. This type of information is needed by community college personnel and the local occupational lay advisory committees in their program evaluation. It is hoped that results obtained from follow-up studies of students will contribute significantly to the continued improvement of the very fine occupational programs already in existence in the community colleges of Illinois.

Prior to designing the ICCB Statewide Follow-Up Study of Occupational Program Non-Graduate Completers, a considerable amount of time and effort was spent in specifying the objectives of the study. Input into the development of the objectives came from many sources because of the very broad representation on the Occupational Follow-Up Study Subcommittee and the ICCB Research Advisory Council. The following objectives were specified for the ICCB Statewide Follow-Up Study of the FY 1979 Occupational Program Non-Graduate Completers before the study was initiated:

1. To assist and encourage institutions in developing occupational follow-up studies for local use in planning, program evaluation, and program improvement;

2. To combine the follow-up requirements of the ICCB, DAVTE, and Veterans Administration into one survey instrument which will provide data for all three requests;

3. To determine the employment status, placement rates, and job entry salaries of occupational program non-graduate completers by specific program area;

4. To determine the job location of community college occupational program non-graduate completers;

5. To determine the job satisfaction of occupational program non-graduate completers with their present positions;

6. To obtain an evaluation of community college programs and services by completers of occupational programs who did not graduate;

7. To obtain an assessment of the impact of a community college education upon the students who complete programs without graduating;

8. To determine how well occupational program completers who did not graduate were able to achieve their objectives at the community colleges.

Operational Definition of Non-Graduate Completer

As used in this survey, a completer was operationally defined as a student who was enrolled in an occupational/career program at a community college during FY 1979 and completed all of the required occupational/skills courses in an occupational degree or certificate program of one academic year or more but did not graduate. All FY 1979 occupational program non-graduate completers who could be identified by the community colleges in Illinois were to be included in the follow-up study.

Examples of non-graduate completers who qualified to be in this study are as follows:

1. A student who completed all the required courses in an auto mechanics program with passing grades but had an overall grade point average too low to graduate.

2. A student who finished all required courses in data processing but did not apply for graduation.

3. A student who completed all required courses in a drafting program but left college before taking two electives necessary for graduation.

4. A student who completed all courses in a welding certificate program but could not graduate because he had not paid a book fine.

The Population

This study included 893 FY 1979 occupational program non-graduate completers at 30 community colleges in Illinois. This represented all of the occupational program non-graduate completers that were enrolled in the community colleges at anytime during FY 1979 which could be identified by the community colleges.

Research Method

The research method in the study was a mail survey. A uniform survey instrument (see survey instrument in Appendix A) was utilized by all institutions. Each college conducted the survey of its occupational

non-graduate completers during January and February of 1980. A second mailing, followed by telephone calls to those completers not responding to the initial request, was utilized. The results were reported to the ICCB via an IBM punch card for each individual completer. Basic student characteristic data obtained from student records were also submitted on IBM punch cards to enable an analysis of the results by student characteristics.

Analysis of the Results

The results of the follow-up survey were analyzed in the ICCB Office through the utilization of a computerized statistical programs (SPSS and SAS). The results for each individual college were processed separately and sent to the colleges for local use. This report contains only the statewide results which provide valuable comparative data for analysis of local college results.

The Response Rate

A total of 412 completers (46.1% of all those surveyed) responded to the follow-up survey on a statewide basis. The response rate at the individual community colleges varied from a high of 100.0% to a low of 14.3%. Table 1 on the following page shows the number of completers surveyed and the number responding for each of the community colleges.

Illinois Community College Board

Table 1

NUMBER OF FY 1979 OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM NON-GRADUATE COMPLETERS
IN THE FOLLOW-UP STUDY AND THE RESPONSE RATE BY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dist. No.	District Name	Number of Students Surveyed	Number of Students Responding	Percent of Students Responding
522	Belleville	--	--	-- %
503	Black Hawk	(8)	(3)	(37.5)
	East	--	--	--
	Quad Cities	8	3	37.5
508	Chicago	(313)	(181)	(57.8)
	City-Wide	24	13	54.2
	Daley	--	--	--
	Kennedy-King	83	44	53.0
	Loop	64	54	84.4
	Malcolm X	12	4	33.3
	Olive-Harvey	1	--	--
	Skills Center	--	--	--
	Truman	22	16	72.7
	Wilbur Wright	107	50	46.7
507	Danville	--	--	--
502	DuPage	319	95	29.8
509	Elgin	6	--	--
512	Harper	24	18	75.0
519	Highland	--	--	--
514	Illinois Central	--	--	--
529	Illinois Eastern	(18)	(8)	(44.4)
	Frontier	--	--	--
	Lincoln Trail	4	1	25.0
	Olney Central	3	3	100.0
	Wabash Valley	11	4	36.3
513	Illinois Valley	9	4	44.4
525	Joliet	4	3	75.0
520	Kankakee	2	2	100.0
501	Kaskaskia	--	--	--
523	Kishwaukee	--	--	--
532	Lake County	--	--	--
517	Lake Land	5	5	100.0
536	Lewis & Clark	7	4	57.1
526	Lincoln Land	--	--	--
530	Logan	5	3	60.0
528	McHenry	--	--	--
524	Moraine Valley	21	20	95.2
527	Morton	30	7	23.3
535	Oakton	25	11	44.0
505	Parkland	--	--	--
515	Prairie State	42	14	33.3
521	Rend Lake	--	--	--
537	Richland	5	5	100.0
511	Rock Valley	--	--	--
518	Carl Sandburg	8	4	50.0
506	Sauk Valley	7	1	14.3
531	Shawnee	13	7	53.8
533	Southeastern	8	8	100.0
534	Spoon River	--	--	--
601	SCC-East St. Louis	5	5	100.0
510	Thornton	--	--	--
504	Triton	9	4	44.4
516	Waubonsee	--	--	--
539	John Wood	--	--	--
	Totals	893	412	46.1%

Evaluation of Community College Services by Occupational Non-Graduate Completers

One of the objectives of the occupational non-graduate completer follow-up study was to obtain the students' evaluation of various community college services. The purpose of this evaluation was to assist the community colleges in evaluating each of their services in an effort to identify areas that need improvement.

The results of this evaluation (see Table 2 on the next page) show that non-graduate completers of occupational programs rated community college library services, instruction in occupational courses, and veterans services as being very good or good for the most part. Eighty percent of the completers rated community college library services as being either very good or good, while only 4.2% of the completers rated these services as being poor or very poor. Of the completers, 79.4% rated veterans services as being very good or good, while 4.2% rated these services as being poor or very poor. Instruction in occupational courses and financial aid were also rated very high by the occupational program non-graduate completers with 73.5% and 70.0% respectively of the completers rating these services as either very good or good.

The high rating given to instruction in both occupational and non-occupational courses by community college non-graduate completers identifies one of the greatest strengths of a community college education. These results provide objective data which verify that the quality of instruction in community college occupational programs is indeed very high.

The best way to identify services which are rated low by the students and which may need improvement in the community colleges is to identify those services which were rated poor or very poor by a substantial percentage of the non-graduate completers. The three community college services with the highest percentage of poor or very poor ratings by the non-graduate completers were:

1. Job Placement (33.9%)
2. Career Counseling (19.2%)
3. Academic Counseling (17.5%)

Although the percentage of poor and very poor ratings in even the three services above is not very high and a larger percentage of the completers rated these services as being very good or good, these results indicate that at least a number of colleges need to look at some of these services as areas in need of improvement. Each college obtained the results of its non-graduate completer evaluations of these services and should compare its results to the state average to determine if its students rated these services either higher or lower than the state average. This analysis would enable the college to identify areas of needed attention at the local college. It is through this type of careful and objective analysis that each community college can identify areas which need improvement in an effort to improve the quality of the educational programs and services for students.

Table 2

RATING OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE SERVICES BY NON-GRADUATE COMPLETERS OF OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAMS

	College Service	Number Rating Item	Ratings by Percent of Total Responding to Each Item				
			Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
1.	Financial Aid	193	34.7%	35.3%	20.7%	5.7%	3.6%
2.	Career Counseling	272	16.5%	34.2%	30.1%	15.1%	4.1%
3.	Job Placement	180	16.1%	22.8%	27.2%	20.6%	13.3%
4.	Academic Counseling	291	16.2%	33.0%	33.3%	12.4%	5.1%
5.	Tutoring Services	127	33.9%	28.3%	25.2%	9.4%	3.2%
6.	Veteran Services	97	45.4%	34.0%	15.5%	4.1%	1.0%
7.	Student Activities	231	13.0%	32.9%	38.5%	10.4%	5.2%
8.	Library Services	365	42.2%	37.8%	15.6%	3.8%	0.6%
9.	Instruction in Occupational Courses	355	39.4%	34.1%	21.4%	4.0%	1.1%
10.	Instruction in Non-Occupational Courses	290	20.3%	44.1%	29.7%	4.5%	1.4%

Impact of Community College Education on Students

Another objective of the occupational follow-up study was to determine the impact of a community college education on the student. A measure of this was obtained by requesting each non-graduate completer to indicate their perception of the impact of his/her community college education in each of several areas.

Table 3 on Page 8 shows the results of this analysis. The occupational program completers perceived the community college education to be most helpful for them in preparation for a specific job, obtaining a job, and performance and advancement in present jobs. These results are not surprising since the occupational programs in a community college are designed for these very purposes. In addition, a large majority of the graduates indicated that their community college education was either very helpful or somewhat helpful to them in the following areas:

1. Development of ability to think critically (92.0%)
2. Development of more effective communications skills (90.9%)
3. Identification and development of life goals and values (85.0%)
4. Making more effective use of time (84.6%)

This analysis indicates that a community college education has many subjective personal, social, and cultural benefits to the individual which are often not measured objectively but, nevertheless, have very important implications for the individual student partaking of that education. Many of these benefits of a community college education should be articulated to prospective students since these are important personal benefits of attending a community college. In addition, it shows that many students, such as the non-graduate completers in this study, obtain these benefits without graduating from the college.

Table 3

IMPACT OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION ON OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM NON-GRADUATE COMPLETERS AS PERCEIVED BY THE STUDENTS

	Impact of Community College Education	Number Rating Item	Percent of Total Indicating How Helpful Their Community College Education Was in Each Area		
			Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Of No Help
1.	Preparation for a Specific Job	363	55.4%	39.9%	4.7%
2.	Obtaining a Job	274	38.7%	42.0%	19.3%
3.	Performance and Advancement in Present Job	255	37.3%	47.0%	15.7%
4.	Development of More Effective Communication Skills	364	32.7%	58.2%	9.1%
5.	Improvement of My Personal Relationships With Others	333	28.2%	53.8%	18.0%
6.	Development of My Ability to Think Critically	349	32.7%	59.3%	8.0%
7.	Identification and Development of Life Goals and Values	353	33.2%	51.8%	15.0%
8.	Understanding Myself Better	352	26.7%	56.8%	16.5%
9.	Becoming More Involved With My Community	257	15.6%	40.1%	44.3%
10.	Increasing My Aesthetic Appreciation	285	26.0%	48.1%	25.9%
11.	Making More Effective Use of My Time	345	31.3%	53.3%	15.4%

Main Objective of Students for Attending a Community College and Success Rate of Achievement as Indicated by Non-Graduate Completers

One of the items on the survey asked each former student to specify his/her main objective for attending the community college and to state how successful he/she was in meeting this objective. Table 4 below shows the result of this survey question. The table shows that the majority of students enrolled in an occupational program in a community college enrolled with an objective of preparing for a future job (55.7%). An additional 10.9% of the students had an objective for improving skills needed in their present job. Some of the students enrolled at the college to explore courses to decide on a career (9.9%), take course work for transfer to another college (14.5%), and personal interest or self development (7.3%).

Regardless of the different objectives which students had for enrolling in an occupational program at a community college, the overwhelming majority of students were either very successful or somewhat successful in completing their objective. Hence, this analysis shows that the occupational programs in public community colleges of Illinois are meeting the needs and expectations of most students who complete programs without graduating.

Table 4

MAIN OBJECTIVE OF OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM NON-GRADUATE COMPLETERS FOR ATTENDING A COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING OBJECTIVE

Main Objective	Number Responding	Percent of Total Responding	Percent of Students Sucessfully Completing Objective
1. Prepare for Future Job	230	55.7%	86.7%
2. Improve Skills Needed in Present Job	45	10.9%	97.8%
3. Explore Courses to Decide on a Career	41	9.9%	67.5%
4. Take Course Work for Transfer to Another College	60	14.5%	84.8%
5. Personal Interest or Self-Development	30	7.3%	86.6%
6. Other	7	1.7%	100.0%

Educational Status of Occupational Program Non-Graduate Completers

An analysis of the present educational status of community college occupational program non-graduate completers showed that 36.8% of all non-graduate completers were currently enrolled in some form of higher education. Of the non-graduates, 18.9% indicated that they were enrolled on a full-time basis, while 17.9% indicated they were enrolled as part-time students. Table 5 below shows a summary of the educational status of community college occupational non-graduate completers. These results are similar to results received from follow-up studies of graduates and indicate that students who are exposed to higher education are more apt to continue their education in the future.

Table 5

PRESENT EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM NON-GRADUATE COMPLETERS

	Number Responding	Percent of Total Responding
Enrolled Full-Time	78	18.9%
Enrolled Part-Time	74	17.9%
Not Enrolled	261	63.2%

Table 6 below shows an analysis of the relationship of the present field of study of community college occupational program non-graduate completers who are continuing their education in the program in which they were enrolled at the community college. The results show that 50.3% of the students who are continuing their education are doing so in the same field as their community college program, while 34.7% are continuing their education in related fields. Fifteen percent of the non-graduate completers continuing their education are studying in a field which was not related to their community college program of study.

Table 6

RELATIONSHIP OF PRESENT FIELD OF STUDENT TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM

	Number Responding	Percent of Total Responding
Same Field	84	50.3%
Related Field	58	34.7%
Unrelated Field	25	15.0%

Employment Status of Occupational Program Non-Graduate Completers

One of the items on the follow-up survey asked the students to indicate their employment status. This employment status was requested during January and February 1980. Table 7 below shows the results of this survey for the occupational program non-graduate completers. The results show that 69.6% of all non-graduate completers who were available for employment were employed on a full-time basis and an additional 17.5% were employed on a part-time basis, while 12.9% were unemployed and seeking a job. A total of 10.2% of all non-graduate completers were unavailable for employment. The large majority of these students (69.5%) are continuing their education on a full-time basis.

Table 7

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM NON-GRADUATE COMPLETERS WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER COMPLETION

	Number Responding	Percent of Total Responding	Percent of Total Available For A Job
Employed Full-Time	238	62.5%	69.6%
Employed Part-Time	60	15.7%	17.5%
Unemployed and Seeking a Job	44	11.5%	12.9%
Unavailable for Employment	39	10.2%	--

It must be noted that this follow-up study was conducted during a period of relatively high unemployment (7.8% for all ages and 16.1% for the 20 to 24 age group for Illinois in January 1980). Hence, although the percentage of FY 1979 non-graduate completers available for employment who were seeking a job (12.9%) was higher than the percentage of FY 1978 graduates available for employment who were seeking a job (5.3%), this difference may be the result of the lower unemployment rate (5.8% for all ages and 11.9% for the 20 to 24 age group for Illinois in January 1979) at the time of the follow-up survey of the FY 1978 graduates. The unemployment rate for the 20 to 24 age group is more appropriate for a relative comparison, since most of the former students are in that age group. Caution must be used in comparing percentages obtained by different methods, however. The percentage of students seeking employment is not the same as the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate as commonly used by the U.S. Department of Labor is defined to be the percentage of unemployed persons in the labor force to total labor force. This definition excludes many people who are seeking a job.

Salary Range of Employed Occupational Program Non-Graduate Completers

Table 8 below shows the salary ranges of employed occupational program non-graduate completers by full-time employed and part-time employed status. These data include salaries for completers of all occupational programs (both associate degrees and certificates) and includes students who had prior jobs as well as those who were employed for the very first time. The median salary reported by full-time employed non-graduate completers was $1,113 per month. The median salary for the part-time employed non-graduate completers was $429 per month.

Table 8

SALARY RANGES OF EMPLOYED OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM NON-GRADUATE COMPLETERS

Salary Range Per Month	Employed Full-Time		Employed Part-Time	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Up to $299	5	2.2%	17	30.3%
300 - 499	14	6.2%	17	30.3%
500 - 699	29	12.8%	6	10.7%
700 - 899	37	16.4%	10	17.9%
900 - 1099	25	11.1%	2	3.6%
1100 - 1299	44	19.5%	2	3.6%
1300 - 1499	24	10.6%	0	0.0%
1500 - 1699	26	11.5%	0	0.0%
$1700 and Up	22	9.7%	2	3.6%
MEDIAN SALARY	$1,113 - Monthly $13,356 - Annually		$429 - Monthly $5,148 - Annually	

Comparison of Salaries of Non-Graduate Completers Having Prior Jobs With Non-Graduate Completers Not Having Prior Jobs

Table 9 on the next page shows a comparison of salaries for those completers who are working on jobs they held prior to enrollment at the college with those completers who have obtained their initial employment after leaving college. Since the community colleges enroll a large proportion of students who are already employed full-time, this is an important distinction to consider in evaluating salary data. The results show that the non-graduate completers with prior jobs had higher median salaries than did the non-graduate completers with no prior job.

Table 9

COMPARISON OF MEDIAN SALARIES OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYED
NON-GRADUATE COMPLETERS WITH AND WITHOUT PRIOR EMPLOYMENT

	Number Responding	Number Full-Time Employed	Median Monthly Salary Of Full-Time Employed	Number Part-Time Employed	Median Monthly Salary Of Part-Time Employed
Non-Graduate Completers With No Prior Job	201	153	$988	36	$411
Non-Graduate Completers With Prior Job	91	69	$1292	18	$443

Relation of Job to Community College Program of Study

Those non-graduate completers who were employed were asked how closely related their job was to the community college program of study in which they were enrolled. The results are shown below in Table 10. These results show that approximately 49% of the completers were employed in a job which was very closely related to their community college program of study, while another 17.6% were employed in an area which was somewhat related.

Table 10

RELATIONSHIP OF JOB TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAM
BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Relationship	Employed Full-Time		Employed Part-Time	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Closely Related	133	56.8%	28	49.1%
Somewhat Related	48	20.5%	10	17.6%
Not Related	53	22.7%	19	33.3%

Table 11 below shows an analysis of the responses received from those students who entered jobs which were not related to their program of study at the community college. Of the 96 non-graduate completers who fit into this category, the largest percentage (29.1%) took a job in a field not related to their program of study because they could not find a job in the field for which they prepared. The second highest reason given was "found better paying job in another field" (21.9%).

Table 11

REASONS WHY JOB WAS NOT RELATED TO PROGRAM OF STUDY

Reason	Number Responding	Percent of Total Responding to Item
Transferred to a College or University	8	8.3%
Preferred to Work in Another Field	9	9.4%
Found Better Paying Job in Another Field	21	21.9%
Could Not Find Job in Field of Preparation	28	29.1%
Worked Previously in Field of Preparation But Changed	7	7.3%
Preferred Not to Move to New Locality	2	2.1%
Other	21	21.9%
TOTAL RESPONDING	96	100.0%

Job Location of Community College Occupational Program Non-Graduate Completers

Table 12 on the next page shows the job location of non-graduate completers of occupational programs in community colleges. The results show that 63.1% of the graduates took jobs within the same community college district in which they were enrolled. 33.7% of the completers located jobs outside of their community college district but within the State of Illinois, while only 3.2% of the completers located jobs out of Illinois. These results show that completers of community college occupational programs locate jobs within the community for the most part and almost entirely within the State of Illinois. These results point out that an investment in public community colleges in Illinois results in the production of qualified skilled technicians who become tax-paying citizens primarily in their local communities and almost entirely within the State of Illinois.

Table 12

LOCATION OF PRESENT JOB

Location	Number Responding	Percent
Within the Community College District	193	63.1%
In Illinois Out-of-District	103	33.7%
Out-of-State	10	3.2%
TOTAL RESPONDING	306	100.0%

Job Satisfaction of Occupational Program Non-Graduate Completers

Table 13 below shows a summary of the results received from the follow-up survey on the job satisfaction of occupational program non-graduate completers with their present jobs. These results showed that 74.2% of all FY 1979 non-graduate completers of occupational programs in the public community colleges of Illinois were either very satisfied or satisfied with their present careers. Only 3.5% of the non-graduate completers responded that they were very dissatisfied with their present job and another 8.6% indicated that they were dissatisfied.

These results indicate that an overwhelming majority of the occupational program non-graduate completers are satisfied with their careers in the occupational area. This is a very significant aspect of choosing a career and an educational program. Hopefully, this kind of information could also be used in career counseling with students both at the community college as well as at the high school level.

Table 13

SATISFACTION OF NON-GRADUATE COMPLETERS WITH PRESENT JOB

Category	Number Responding	Percent
Very Satisfied	111	35.2%
Satisfied	123	39.0%
Not Sure	43	13.7%
Dissatisfied	27	8.6%
Very Dissatisfied	11	3.5%
TOTAL RESPONDING	315	100.0%

Evaluation of Different Sources of Job Placement Assistance by Non-Graduate Completers of Occupational Programs in Community Colleges of Illinois

Since one of the functions of a community college is to provide job placement assistance to its present and former students, one of the items on the follow-up survey asked students to evaluate how helpful the various sources of job placement assistance were to him or her. Since some of the non-graduate completers already had jobs, many did not respond to this item because it was not applicable. Of particular significance in this analysis are the ratings given to the two community college sources of job placement assistance (the college placement office and program coordinators or college faculty). As shown in Table 14 below, the results showed that the graduates rated the job assistance of program coordinators or college faculty as being more helpful to them than the college placement office. The results for the college placement office showed that 24.3% of the non-graduate completers who responded to this item indicated that the college placement office was either very helpful or helpful to them in obtaining employment. This compares to 54.9% of the completers indicating that program coordinators or college faculty were either very helpful or helpful to them in obtaining a job. The results show that community college students get very little assistance from state or private employment agencies and rely primarily on friends or relatives and other sources for obtaining a job.

Table 14

EVALUATION OF DIFFERENT SOURCES OF JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE
BY NON-GRADUATE COMPLETERS OF OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAMS
IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES OF ILLINOIS

Source of Job Placement Assistance	Number Rating Item	Ratings of Non-graduates by Percent of Students		
		Very Helpful	Helpful	Of No Help
1. College Placement Office	107	10.3%	14.0%	75.7%
2. Program Coordinator or College Faculty	113	23.0%	31.9%	45.1%
3. Illinois State Job Service Agency	85	10.6%	8.2%	81.2%
4. Private Employment Agency	90	21.1%	12.2%	66.7%
5. Friends or Relatives	144	40.3%	33.3%	26.4%
6. Other	46	67.4%	17.4%	15.2%

APPENDIX A

Survey Instrument

STANDARD ITEMS TO BE USED IN THE ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES OCCUPATIONAL
FOLLOW-UP SURVEY OF FY 1979 OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM NON-GRADUATE COMPLETERS

Use Label

Name: _____
Address: _____
Soc. Security No.: _____
Telephone No.: _____

If there are any changes in the label, please correct.

A. Please rate those colleges services below that you have utilized according to how well they fulfilled your own individual needs by marking each item with a number corresponding to the following code.

1 - Very Good
2 - Good
3 - Average
4 - Poor
5 - Very Poor
6 - Not Applicable

1. ____ Financial Aid
2. ____ Career Counseling
3. ____ Job Placement
4. ____ Academic Counseling
5. ____ Tutoring Services
6. ____ Veteran Services
7. ____ Student Activities
8. ____ Library Services
9. ____ Instruction in Occupational Courses
10. ____ Instruction in Non-Occupational Courses

B. How helpful was your community college education in each of the areas listed below. Mark each item with the number of the most appropriate response to each statement using the following code:

1 - Very Helpful
2 - Somewhat Helpful
3 - Of No Help
4 - Not Applicable

1. ____ Preparation for a specific job
2. ____ Obtaining a job
3. ____ Performance and advancement in present job
4. ____ Development of more effective communication skills
5. ____ Improvement of my personal relationships with others
6. ____ Development of my ability to think critically
7. ____ Identification and development of life goals and values
8. ____ Understanding myself better
9. ____ Becoming more involved with my community
10. ____ Increasing my aesthetic appreciation (such as art, music, and literature)
11. ____ Making more effective use of my time

C. What was your main objective in attending our college?

1. ____ Prepare for a future job
2. ____ Improve skills needed in present job
3. ____ Explore courses to decide on a career
4. ____ Take course work for transfer to another college
5. ____ Personal interest or self-development
6. ____ Other

D. How successful were you in meeting your objective?

1. ____ Very Successful
2. ____ Somewhat Successful
3. ____ Not Successful
4. ____ Not Sure

E. What is your current educational status?

1. ____ Full-Time Student
2. ____ Part-Time Student
3. ____ Not Enrolled in School

COMPLETE ITEM F ONLY IF YOU ARE CONTINUING YOUR EDUCATION

F. Institution Attending: _____

Program of Study _____

How is your present field of study related to your community college program?

1. ____ Same Field
2. ____ Related Field
3. ____ Unrelated Field

G. What is your present employment status?

1. ____ Employed, Full-Time
2. ____ Employed, Part-Time
3. ____ Full-Time Military Service
4. ____ Unemployed, Seeking Employment
5. ____ Unavailable for Employment
Indicate reason below:

____ a. Full-Time Student
____ b. Full-Time Homemaker
____ c. Health Disability
____ d. Family Responsibilities
____ e. Prefer Not to Move to New Locality
____ f. Other _____

PROCEED TO PAGE TWO ONLY IF YOU ARE EMPLOYED
(EMPLOYED INCLUDES FULL-TIME MILITARY SERVICE)

If you are not employed, this completes the survey. Please return the survey in the envelope provided.
Thank you very much for helping us evaluate the College's programs and services.

COMPLETE THIS PAGE ONLY IF YOU ARE EMPLOYED

H. If you are currently employed, how closely related is your present job to the program completed at our college?

1. ____ Closely Related
2. ____ Somewhat Related
3. ____ Not Related

I. If current job is not related, have you been employed in a job related to the program completed since leaving our college?

1. ____ Yes 2. ____ No

J. If your present job is not related to the program you completed at our college (as indicated in Question I above) please check the best reason why.

1. ____ Transferred to a college or university
2. ____ Preferred to work in another field
3. ____ Found better paying job in another field
4. ____ Could not find a job in field of preparation
5. ____ Worked previously in field of preparation, but changed
6. ____ Preferred not to move to new locality
7. ____ Other (Describe) _____

K. If you are employed full-time or part-time, please indicate your gross monthly salary range; that is, before deductions.

1. ____ Up to $300
2. ____ $300 - $499
3. ____ $500 - $699
4. ____ $700 - $899
5. ____ $900 - $1099
6. ____ $1100 - $1299
7. ____ $1300 - $1499
8. ____ $1500 - $1699
9. ____ $1700 - Up

L. The salary in the item above is based on _____ hours per week on the average.

M. Were you employed in your present job prior to your enrollment in the program completed at our college?

1. ____ Yes 2. ____ No

N. In general, how satisfied are you with your present job? (Check only one)

1. ____ Very Satisfied
2. ____ Satisfied
3. ____ Not Sure
4. ____ Dissatisfied
5. ____ Very Dissatisfied

O. How helpful was each of the sources listed below in attempting to find your first job upon leaving our college? Mark the number of appropriate responses to each source by using the following code:

1 - Very Helpful 3 - Of No Help
2 - Somewhat Helpful 4 - Does Not Apply

1. ____ College Placement Office
2. ____ Program Coordinator or College Faculty
3. ____ Illinois State Job Services Agency
4. ____ Private Employment Agency
5. ____ Friends or Relatives
6. ____ Other (Please indicate) _____

P. What is the location of your primary place of employment? (Check only one)

1. ____ Within our community college district
2. ____ Not in our college district but in Illinois
3. ____ Outside of Illinois

Q. Please indicate the following information about your present position.

1. Firm or Employer _____
2. Employer Address _____
3. Supervisor's Name _____
4. Exact title of your position _____
5. Primary job function _____

R. May we have your permission to contact your employer for additional information?

1. ____ Yes 2. ____ No

Please make any comments that you feel will let us know the impact of your education at the community college for you personally whether good or bad.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ASSISTING US IN EVALUATING THE COLLEGE'S PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

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